



FLAF11



FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes - 19th January 2026

Wepre Park, Garden Room, Connah's Quay.

Members – Julian Pellatt, John Holiday, Jeff Shone, Huw Morgan, Councillor Dave Evans, Miranda Dechazal

Observers – Kieren Barlow, Ant Tomlinson.

Officers in Attendance - Tom Woodall, Derrick Charlton, Adrian Hibbert, Suzanne Williams, Jon Hill, Stuart Jones, Natalie Davies, Isobel Smith.

Apologies – Marjorie Thomson, Ed Swan, Alan Neale, Shirley Fermor.

1/ Welcome -

JP welcomed everyone to the 11th meeting of the LAF. Introductions were given by all present and apologies received.

JP welcomed guest speaker Isobel Smith.

2/ Minutes of previous meeting -

The minutes of the meeting 13th October were agreed as written.

a. Matters Arising

TW confirmed that he had sent a letter to the Chief Officer, Streetscene & Transportation to thank Lee Shone for the presentation he gave to the forum at the last meeting and to ask that the forum was consulted on any access initiatives going forward. TW highlighted the current active travel barrier;

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Consultation-and-Engagement/Open/Consultation-local-cycle-network-barriers.aspx>

TW further confirmed that he had sent a letter on behalf of the forum in response to the statutory consultation on the proposed new national park. He added that the forum's response was also sent to the Chief Executive and Leader of the council, to provide advice to the Authority in their deliberations in responding to the consultation. TW summarised Flintshire's final response and position, in that due to the lack of detailed information, Flintshire were unable to support the proposal.

TW added that on the 12th January the NRW board reviewed the evidence and the consultation findings and agreed to make the designation order.



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Flintshire are currently considering the decision.

3/ Update on the Flintshire Coast Path – Shared Prosperity Fund, Access Improvements -

This was an update presentation on works delivered over the last 2 years through the SPF grant and highlighted works carried out within the Flintshire Coast Path, eg the removal of A Frame barriers, a new Talacre Beach boardwalk, Greenfield Dock improvements, path improvements at Bettisfield, Saltney, Connah's Quay Feasibility study, Bridge Street, Shotton. IS highlighted a visitor impact appraisal in Talacre and other feasibility studies undertaken.

DE asked about Greenfield and Bagillt areas having remains of boats and are they going to be removed? IS confirmed that we have removed 22 boats but said more boats have returned.

DE said when he drives past Saltney Ferry footbridge there is a small parking area but is concerned that none of the cars parked there have bike racks and wants to know where people are going. TW said it would be worth finding out.

JS asked about connections between Buckley and other areas. He said the links are really bad. He asked if there are any projects going forward and that disused railways could be the answer to that also A55 Pinfold could have been an opportunity.

JH agreed that there is a lack of access between Mold and Buckley and Buckley and Deeside. We need to encourage people to use other vehicles apart from motor vehicles as there is always accidents on the A55.

HM asked about antisocial behavior following the removal of barriers. DE says there didn't appear to be any increase.

JP asked do you have any idea about how many people use the coastal path?

IS said we have counters on the coastal paths but there are other methods of finding this information which looks at where people are coming from. There is a baseline to see how many people visit the coastal path at Bagillt. She said they are trying to do match funding to find out this information.



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4/ Access Team Update

SJ gave an overview of works completed in the last quarter and issued resolved. Figures will be emailed to members alongside these minutes.

DC highlighted before and after photos of works delivered under the Access Improvement Grant - £75,000 and if members can think of any schemes going forward please let the team know.

5/ Completion of Local Access Forum Term

TW reflected on the forums work over the year and commented on how pleasing the forum has conducted itself over the past 3 years.

DE said it has been much more engaging and productive than in the past. It has the potential to be a good forum. He said members should put forward what they would like to see in the forum in the next year.

HW said he would like to see progress on connectivity issues like the one between Mold and Buckley.

JS said he would like to see task and finish groups from this forum.

TW explained the recruitment process, existing member would be invited to re-join the forum and a wider advert to recruit would go out and asked members to share widely. He said that all user groups are to be considered and that the membership should be between 12- 22 people.

DC asked the forum if they are happy with 4 meetings per year.

JP said he thinks 4 is about right and it is important to have community throughout the year.

KB asked if all the venues we use for meetings can be accessible.

TW said yes of course we are mindful and said we need to consider being bilingual to ensure we comply with Welsh language standards.

6/ AOB

HM reported that Welsh Government have announced the sustainable farming scheme, and footpaths would have to be open to claim the funding. You can google (Gov Wales-SMR 14) to find out more information.

MD said maybe an event should be put on to help farmers with making the footpaths on their land open and available.

JS asked what impact this would this scheme be? HM said a large impact as there are 16,000 claimant and potentially 80% blocked footpaths across Wales.



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JP said as this will be his last meeting he would like to thank Tom and the team who deliver an awful lot for such a small budget. He would like to thank Huw and all of the members for their time. He said moving forward it is important that the forum look at the bigger picture. He said strategy is only good when it produces practical solution.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12pm.